

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A conjugated 4-~~pregnen-21-hydroxy~~ or 1,4-pregnadiene-21-hydroxy steroid wherein ~~the a conjugate conjugant~~ group pends from ~~the steroid~~ **a steroid** 21 hydroxyl group, ~~which conjugant~~ **and wherein the conjugate** group comprises a nerve growth factor (NGF) or NGF receptor-binding fragment thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-carbamate linkage to the **conjugate** ~~conjugant~~ group.

27. (Currently Amended) The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the **conjugate** ~~conjugant~~ group.

28. (Currently Amended) The conjugated steroid of any one of claims 25 - 27, wherein the NGF or NGF receptor-binding fragment pends covalently through **an epsilon amino group of** a lysine residue ~~epsilon-amino-group~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The conjugated steroid of claim 26, wherein the NGF or NGF receptor binding fragment pends covalently through **an epsilon amino group of** a thiolated lysine residue ~~epsilon-amino-group~~.

30. (Currently Amended) The conjugated steroid of **claim 25** ~~claim 28~~, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the ~~steroid~~ **corticosteroid** is triamcinolone acetonide.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the ~~steroid~~ corticosteroid is fluocinolone acetonide.

34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of ~~claim 28~~ claim 25, wherein the conjugate ~~conjugant~~ group comprises NGF (~~NGF~~).

36. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of ~~claim 35~~ claim 25, wherein the conjugate ~~conjugant~~ group comprises a nerve growth factor (NGF) fragment which binds ~~capable of binding~~ to trkA receptors and being internalized therewith.

37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Canceled)**

39. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of ~~claim 25~~ claim 32, in which triamcinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF), or to a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue ~~epsilon amino group~~.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of ~~claim 25~~ claim 33, in which fluocinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue ~~epsilon amino group~~.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the ~~steroid~~ corticosteroid is betamethasone.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the ~~steroid~~ corticosteroid is dexamethasone.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of ~~claim 25~~ **claim 41**, in which betamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue ~~epsilon-amino-group~~.

44. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of ~~claim 25~~ **claim 42**, in which dexamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue ~~epsilon-amino-group~~.

45. **(Canceled)**

46. **(Canceled)**

47. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 41, in which betamethasone is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

48. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 42, in which dexamethasone is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

49. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 35, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

50. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 49, wherein the corticosteroid is triamcinolone acetonide.

51. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 50, in which triamcinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to the NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

52. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 49, wherein the corticosteroid is fluocinolone acetonide.

53. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 52, in which fluocinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to the NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue

54. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 49, wherein the corticosteroid is betamethasone.

55. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 54, in which betamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

56. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 49, wherein the corticosteroid is dexamethasone.

57. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 56, in which dexamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

58. **(New)** A conjugated 4-pregnene-21-hydroxy-steroid wherein a conjugate group pends from a steroid 21 hydroxyl group, and wherein the conjugate group comprises a nerve growth factor (NGF) or NGF receptor-binding fragment thereof.

59. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 58, having a 21-carbamate linkage to the conjugate group.

60. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 58, having a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the conjugate group.

61. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of any one of claims 58 - 60, wherein the NGF or NGF receptor-binding fragment pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

62. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 59, wherein the NGF or NGF receptor binding fragment pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a thiolated lysine residue.

63. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 58, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

64. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 63, wherein the corticosteroid is cortisone.

65. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 64, in which cortisone is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF), or to a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.

66. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 58, wherein the conjugate group comprises a nerve growth factor (NGF) fragment which binds to trkA receptors and being internalized therewith.

67. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 58, wherein the conjugate group comprises NGF.

68. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 63, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

69. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 68, wherein the corticosteroid is cortisone.

70. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 69, in which cortisone is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to the NGF, which pends covalently through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue.